

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

INRE-00 SSO-00 IO-10 SS-15 SCA-01 H-02 COME-00 EB-07

LAB-04 SIL-01 PPT-01 DIWY-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 PA-01

PRS-01 USIE-00 /073 W

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O 241502Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4935

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BBAK, OPRC, LE

SUBJ: RECRUITMENT OF AMERICAN GIRLS FOR BEIRUT

REF STATE 147242

1. BASHAWATA, INC. NOT LISTED IN TELEPHONE BOOK OR OTHER LOCAL BUSINESS DIRECTORIES; NOT REGISTERED WITH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE? UNKNOWN TO EMBASSY BANKING AND BUSINESS CONTACTS.

2. CONSULAR SECTION ADVISES POTENTIAL EMPLOYEES EXERCISE EXTREME CAUTION. THERE HAS BEEN EXTENSIVE ADVERSE PUBLICITY IN BRITISH AND OTHER EUROPEAN PRESS REGARDING RECRUITMENT OF COCKTAIL WAITRESSES FOR BEIRUT'S MULTITUDE OF SMALL BARS. ALTHOUGH ALLEGATIONS OF "WHITE SLAVERY" ARE MORE SENSATIONAL JOURNALISM THAN FACT, EUROPEAN BAR-MAIDS HAVE EXPERIENCED DIFFICULT TIMES AND FIND SELVES TRAPPED BY STRINGENT CONTRACT TERMS.

3. ALTHOUGH UNABLE DETERMINE WHETHER "BASHAWATA" RECRUITMENT BAR-MAIDS, CONTRACT REFERENCE TO "NO RETURN FARE IF ARRESTED" LEADS US TO BELIEVE THIS MOST LIKELY.

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AMERICAN RECRUITS MAY WISH TO BE GUIDED BY FOLLOWING

COMMENTS AND COMPLAINTS MADE BY THE MANY BRITISH AND ONE OR TWO AMERICAN GIRLS WHO HAVE COME TO GRIEF.

4. CONTRACTS OFFER RETURN FARE ONLY AFTER SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION PRESCRIBED TERM, USUALLY ONE YEAR. IN MANY CASES, EMPLOYER MAY HAVE LEGAL CLAIM AGAINST GIRLS FOR REPAYMENT OF FARE TO LEBANON IF CASE EMPLOYEE ATTEMPTS TERMINATE CONTRACT EARLY. IN SUCH CASES, EMPLOYEES FIND THEMSELVES TRAPPED.

5. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN FEW IF ANY COMPLAINTS GIRLS URGED INTO AFTER HOURS ACTIVITY WITH CUSTOMERS, THEY ARE USUALLY UNDER GREAT PRESSURE TO SELL QUOTA OF DRINKS, EVEN IF THIS NOT SPECIFIED IN CONTRACT.

6. MOST GIRLS PLACED UNDER SEVERE RESTRICTIONS REGARDING LIVING ARRANGEMENTS. MUST LIVE IN SPECIFIED APARTMENT BUILDINGS WHERE UNDER WATCH OF CONCIERGE. MUST RETURN TO ROOMS WITHIN SPECIFIED SHORT TIME AFTER CLOSE OF BAR. CONTRACT USUALLY SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITS GIRLS FROM PATRONIZING COMPETING BARS, NIGHT CLUBS, ETC.

7. COCKTAIL WAITRESSES ADMITTED TO LEBANON UNDER STRINGENT VISA REQUIREMENTS UNDER SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF EMPLOYER. RUPTURE OF CONTRACT CAN RESULT IN IMMEDIATE EXPULSION. MANY GIRLS COMPLAIN THEY UNABLE REMAIN IN LEBANON AFTER COMPLETION ONE YEAR CONTRACT EVEN FOR FEW DAYS OF SIGHTSEEING AND SHOPPING. THUS MANY GIRLS HAVE SPENT YEAR IN LEBANON WITHOUT EVEN SEEING MAJOR SIGHTSEEING ATTRACTIONS.

8. IN SHORT, WE BELIEVE ANY AMERICAN CONTEMPLATING EMPLOYMENT AS "WAITRESS" IN LEBANON MUST (A) READ AND UNDERSTAND ALL CONTRACT TERMS, (B) DETERMINE EXACT NATURE OF DUTIES, STATED IMPLIED, (C) DETERMINE NATURE OF LIVING ARRANGEMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS ON MOVEMENT, (D) DETERMINE VISA STATUS AND LIMITS ON STAY AFTER CONTRACT COMPLETION (E) DETERMINE POSSIBILITY FOR ADVANCE REPATRIATION. WE ALSO URGE POTENTIAL EMPLOYEES TO PLACE NO REPEAT NO CREDENCE IN ORAL STATEMENTS OR WRITTEN PROVISIONS SIGNED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BY RECRUITER AND NOT MADE INTEGRAL PART OF CONTRACT. WE ALSO URGE GIRLS ARRIVE WITH UNRESTRICTED RETURN TICKET TO HOME PLUS AT LEAST \$200 FOR HOTEL BILL AND MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES IN CASE DECIDE DEPART PRIOR END OF CONTRACT.

9. EMBASSY WILL INVESTIGATE "BASHAWATA" FURTHER IF DEPARTMENT CAN FURNISH NAME, PRINCIPALS AND ADDRESS IN LEBANON. GODLEY

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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**TAGS:** BBAK, SGEN, LE, US  
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